Dublin, August 16. 1856

Dear Mr May

I this day recd your letter dated Leicester, ~~July~~ August 4, enclosing a bill for £8.10.1. to close accounts between us. I think with you that in future I had better retain any balance that may remain in your favor, as a fund to cover any demands you may have upon it on this side of the Atlantic. I am sure I hope you are not a loser by my bad bookkeeping. I do not wish to lose, nor would I like that you should. If there were any more accurate person willing to take this trouble I wd be glad it were in his hands. But you may rest quite sure that as to the trouble itself I think nothing of it, being only too glad to be of any use to the cause. I think I mentioned in my last that in order to secure greater accuracy and to keep this account from any complication with my own, I have handed the American money transactions to Mrs Webb's keeping. She is exact, careful and neat in such matters and I expect we shall go on swimmingly.

Do I understand you correctly in supposing that in consequence of Mr Cotterell's name having been entered for 2 years subscription to the Liberator, you send me 12/6 less than you otherwise should? And that, in order to avoid going over the same ground again, you wish me to apply to Mr Cotterell for the subscription for the 2nd year? And that if he refuses to continue a subscriber, I am to advise you, and you will give me credit for the 12/6.? I only ask this question that we may have a complete understanding, not that I am covetous of more money from you. It is the only point in your letter I am not quite clear about, and whatever you say will satisfy me in the matter. Meantime, I will apply for the 2nd year's subscription and when I get the money will be ready to put it to your credit or into my own purse, as you may direct.

About the Advocate I never felt any surprise that more was not done for it in New England. I rather wondered that ~~[illegible]~~ you sent us so many subscribers. I know how many the claims must be made upon the abolitionists— so small a handful in presence of so great a work— and I would be sorry to add to them. Sending an anti-slavery paper to American abolitionists is like sending coals to Newcastle. Still, I know it must cheer you on to feel and see that you have hearty sympathisers on this side of the Atlantic who see eye to eye with you, and are proud to bear ever so small a share in your labours. I have no doubt the number of these will increase, though the result of our experience is to show how dark & prevalent is the ignorance of anti-slavery affairs in these countries, and how much there is to be done, before much can be effected for you here. Among the very first things that arrested my attention when I came into the cause were the gross ignorance & apathy of the ~~[illegible]~~ majority of the anti-slavery people of England as to the real merits of the cause in the

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United States, and the many ramifications of its bearings.

The heads of your friends here are sick of Mr Chamerovzow at present. Mr Cham. took offence at P. Pillsbury not responding more cordially to his nomination of him as a speaker on the British & Foreign platform. P.P. informs Mr Cham. that he wrote to him from Paris declining the nomination — that he sent the letter ~~to~~ to the care of Wm W. Brown — Brown says he sent it off immediately to New Broad St — Cham says he did not get it for 10 days after the meeting — & accuses Brown of holding it over — for some crooked purpose of Brown's own. This leads to a thorough sifting of the whole affair — which ends in Chamw admitting he was quite mistaken both as to facts & conclusions, & writing an apology to Brown, who accepts it very good naturedly. Geo. Thompson, Mr Chesson, Mr Heuthal, W.W.B. and Miss Estlin have had a deal of writing about it. One day I read from Mr Heuthal, a letter from J. T. to him giving chapter and verse for the whole story — and an exceedingly damaging one it is to Mr Chamw. He seems without any provocation from Brown or apparent benefit to himself to have accused him wantonly in a way that might have cast a slur on him for life — on one who had never injured him & whose only dependence was his unsullied character. — Mr Estlin was extremely desirous for a fusion with the New Broad St Society — Cham was apparently a very great improvement on Scoble — free from his antipathies, & his bigotry and malevolence. He placed such unlimited confidence in Mr E. & I may say in myself, that I was greatly won'd in his favour — and so were the Estlins. He seemed most anxious for a good understanding with the Am. A.S.S. & its friends and to think if he was only given time enough – if people would have enough patience with him – he would muzzle the demon of bigotry, conceit, & exclusiveness at 27 New Broad St and would bring about a heaven of halcyon days, peace, and good humour, between Joseph Sturge & W. L. Garrison & their respective adherents. I never expected this – I never thought it possible – but I admired the disposition of Mrs Cham. and the desire of Mr Estlin and I knew as I was a bad hoper, it was possible I might be in degree mistaken. However this Brown Tiller affair is a very sad one, and there is an amount of duplicity, meanness & unscrupulousness that leave one no room to hope for a continuance of the entente cordiale with Mrs Cham. or with New Broad Street – and so we must do the best we can without them. To the best of my knowledge & belief W. W. Brown's conduct has been altogether respectable & unexceptionable since he first landed in England, & he has the warm good wishes of all the friends of the Am. A. S. Society on this side of the ocean & of many others besides amongst whom he has been during his anti Slavery tours.

The papers will tell you all about the Manchester Conference which seems to have gone off very well though they attempted to do too much in the short time they could devote to deliberation. Owing to matters of business I was prevented from attending – to my own very great regret.

I had a letter from P. Pillsbury today. He is far from well – but seems to be getting, and greatly enjoying, very good nursing from a lady, a friend of mine in Manchester, to whom we introduced him when she was over here some weeks ago on a visit to her relations.

Indeed it may be cause of thankfulness to his friends at home to know that since he arrived in England he has been received as a brother in one family or another who were glad to have him and to do all in their power to comfort him and alleviate his sufferings. I think he feels quite sure of a welcome in many such houses — and I know he would be ~~here~~ at Mr Estlins or with us. There is a remarkable difference between the man himself and the kind of rough and terrible anti-slavery reputation he has. His disposition is remarkably tender, gentle, sensitive, and full of veneration & reverence for what is truly venerable & worthy of respect. He is a very interesting man, and one that women would be able to grow fond of. You ~~may~~ need not mention this to Mrs Pillsbury if she be of a jealous temperament but I mean it only in a perfectly platonic & innocent sense. I cannot tell you how often I congratulate myself that the cause has brought me into intimate intercourse with so many men & women whom I hold in the highest respect & affectionate regard for their worth's sake — just such people, though with more of flesh & blood reality, as I used to esteem the good & great of old.

Poor Jay! his state of mind about his children is a real affliction. I have a brother who was also exceedingly wrapped up in his children — but not so extravagantly as Jay, who is now I fear on the point of losing his eldest girl about 13 years old, after a long & afflicting illness. I never knew a man who so worshipped his children — & I often dreaded what he might suffer if any them should die. But this illness has been a time of agony to the poor fellow, which he has borne with great gentleness all the while. Not fighting with fate, though fearfully afflicted.

As to Pillsbury in Scotland, I do not think he could do much good in the way you suggest. The Scotch are I believe the most intensely bigotted of any educated people in existence. They are past praying for. They are so early and carefully crammed with the most intense Calvinism that their judgment on such points is overwhelmed before they have had time to use it. And so they continue bigotted & conceited to an ~~intense degree~~ extraordinary degree. I look upon orthodoxy as a great enemy to abolitionism — and the reason is simple. Bad as is slavery, it is not so bad as damnation. Better that the slave continue slave than that I be damned. If the orthodox faith be true, it is of the first importance that I keep sound in it — that I run no risk of my soul — that I avoid all unitarians, deists, infidels, all philosophy & vain deceit, all heresy and heretics. Some such train of thought, I am persuaded is constantly operating against the spread of abolitionism amongst the so called religious worldlings — so sure do I feel of this, that I never think it worth my while to waste much labour with people who think in this direction. I don't think it either fair or reasonable to expect it.

I do not like to close without saying that Mr Hemsted sent me your last letter to him? I am about to transfer it with very few omissions

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to the Advocate. Our own reader from Ellis letter read to-day. It is a real kindness to supply us with such living words for our letter before. Your letters are always a great feast to the Estlins and to me — and we always reciprocate whatever comes from you in this way.

Yours ever truly

Richd D Webb